

Claim 5 (currently amended). An access port structure for a personal watercraft having a craft body with a deck, wherein a front portion of said deck is distended upwardly to form a distended portion, said personal watercraft having a steering handle member which is rotatably supported at a central upper portion of said distended portion, and a steering shaft operatively connected to said steering handle member;

said access port structure comprising at least one opening formed in a an exterior side wall of said distended portion, and a lid which is removably attachable to said deck to temporarily cover said opening;

wherein said opening in said exterior side wall is substantially aligned with said steering shaft in a fore-and-aft direction of said watercraft;
and wherein the access port structure is configured such that the steering shaft is accessible upon removal of said lid from said opening in said exterior side wall.

10/660, 108
Informal Proposed Draft
Examiner Avila